

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

May 12, 2020

Stuart Wilcox 5135 Anza Street San Francisco, CA 94121

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2020-000363 Interim Response

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

This letter is in response to your FOIA request, EPA-HQ-2020-000363, submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on October 16, 2019. You clarified your request through a series of phone calls and correspondence, as confirmed in your letter to EPA dated December 12, 2019.

Today we are releasing 753 pages of records related to your request and responsive releasable records have been uploaded to EPA's FOIAonline system found at: <a href="https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home">https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home</a>. To access the records, reference your FOIA request as EPA-HQ-2020-000363.

EPA is withholding fourteen records in full because they are exempt from mandatory disclosure by virtue of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5), (b)(7) (records are subject to withholding based Attorney Work Product, Attorney Client, and Deliberative Process Privileges as well as Enforcement Confidential records). EPA is also withholding seventy-four records in part. For records that have been partially redacted, EPA has identified the basis for the redaction directly on the released record. Should you wish to appeal any withholding determination, you will have the opportunity to do so. We will provide you with appeal rights at the time of the final production.

We submitted additional searches for records from other parts of the agency (including both Headquarters and regional offices) and have begun review of these documents. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.104(d), an extension of time is necessary to respond to your request. Given the scope of the request, EPA anticipates that the response will require a significant amount of EPA's resources and time to review voluminous records from regional offices or other offices that are separate from the office processing the request. In addition, time will be needed for consultation with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of the agency having substantial subject-matter interest therein. We anticipate that your request will be completed by September 1, 2020 or sooner and expect to provide you with rolling productions up until the request is completed.

You may seek assistance from the EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or call (202) 566-1667. You may also seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Government Information Services, 8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (202) 741-5769.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tessa Berman at 202-564-1203 or Krishna Bhatt at 202-564-6714. If you wish to request information connected to this request in the future, please be sure to reference the FOIA request number.

Sincerely,

Amy Porter, Director Crosscutting Policy Staff Office of Civil Enforcement

US Environmental Protection Agency

CC

Tessa Berman, Office of Civil Enforcement, Crosscutting Policy Staff Krishna Bhatt, Office of General Counsel